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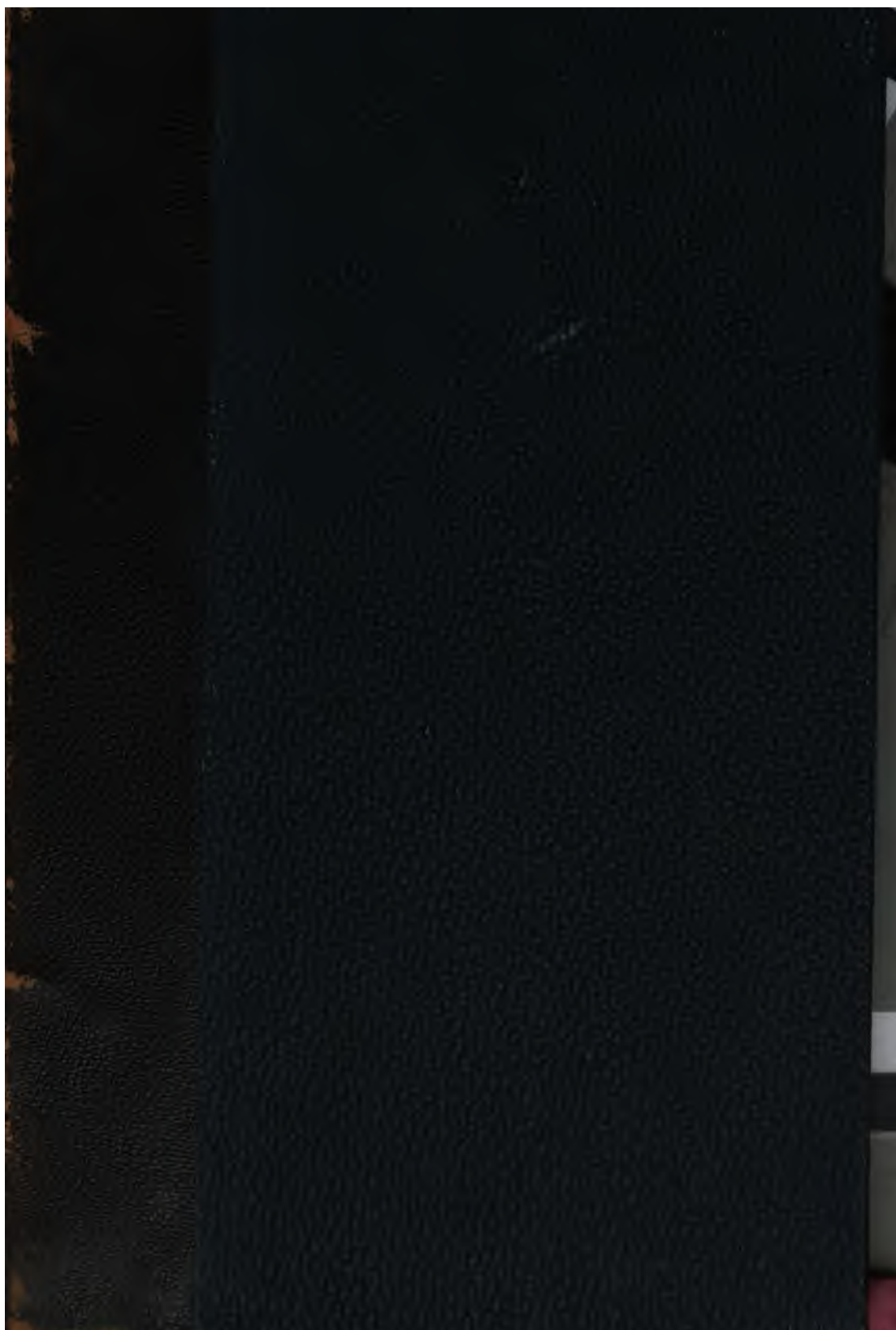
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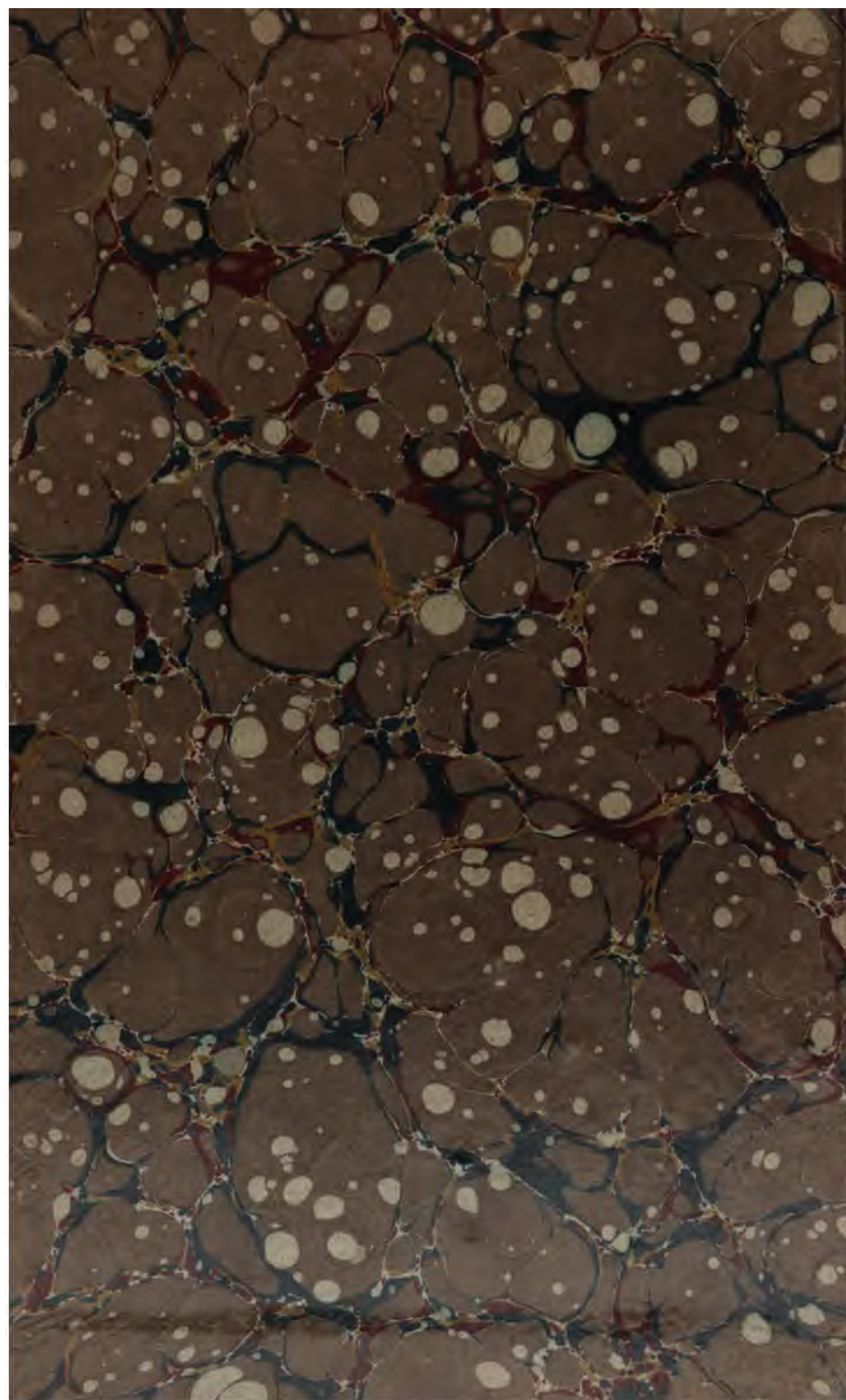
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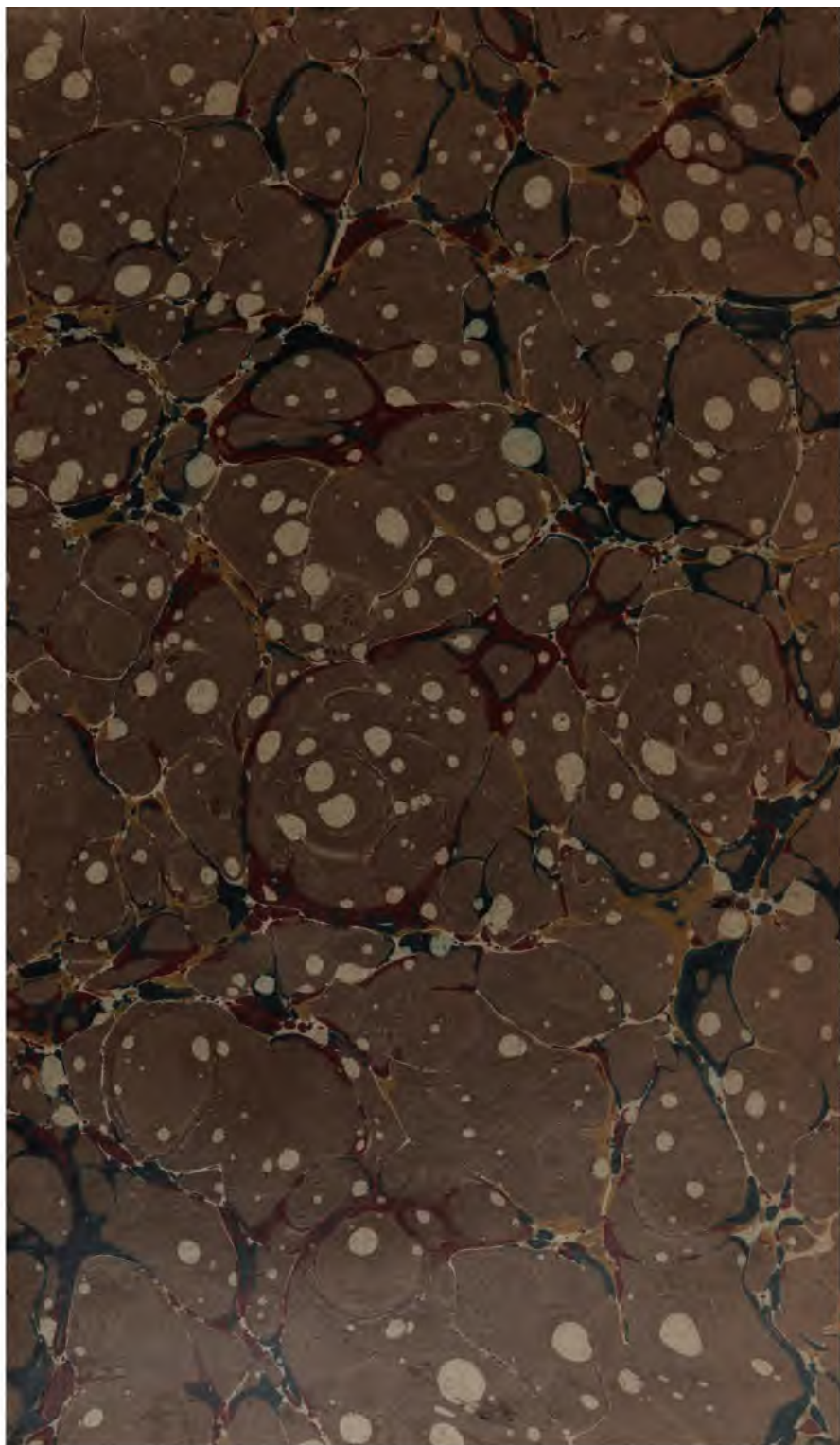
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More Odd Texts

OF

Chaucer's Minor Poems.

RUSKIN MANUSCRIPTS  
OXFORD.

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*First Series, No. LXXVII.*

R. CLAY & SONS, LIMITED, LONDON & BUNGAY.



## FOREWORDS.

AFTER I finisht the *Odd Texts of Chaucer's Minor Poems* in 1880, I copied five more at Cheltenham in 1882 from the Phillipps MS. 9053, and Mr. George Parker sent me four from the Bodleian. I put them aside in the hope that others would turn up, and forgot all about them till Prof. Skeat sent me his excellent edition of the *Minor Poems* on Dec. 20, 1888. His admission of the Harleian-78 copy of the continuation of the *Pity* as genuine, reminded me that I had another copy of it from the Phillipps MS., and this showd (as Prof. Skeat pointed out) a unique last verse. It became therefore advisable to print the laid-by copies; and here they are.

No doubt the *Pity*-continuation—here cald by Shirley's name for the whole poem 'The Balade of Pitee'—ought to be printed as three separate poems: 1. in 7-line stanzas, 2. in *terza-rima*, imperfect, 3. in 10-line stanzas; but as they are all on the same subject, and the MSS. run them into one another, there is no great harm in keeping them under one head, in separate sections.

When I first printed the Harleian copy in our *Odd Texts* Appendix, pp. ii.-v., it seemd to fall off so towards the end that I didn't feel sure that it was Chaucer's, nor did Hy. Bradshaw. But as the two MSS. of it give it to Chaucer, and both are evidently from a Shirley copy, or transcripts of one, and its rymes keep Chaucer's laws, we may well hold this poem genuine, independent of our wish to make it so, on account of its witness to Chaucer's try at Dante's *terza-rima*.

The three Roundels from the last page of the Pepys MS. 2006, which our friend Prof. Skeat has kindly printed at the end of the Appendix here, I am willing to accept as Chaucer's, because of their merit and their Chaucer ring. The *Neve-Fanglennesse* which I printed on the fly-leaf to my *Odd Texts* Appendix, I still maintain is not Chaucer's. Nor can I acknowledge as genuine either of the other supposititious poems—An amorous Compleint, p. 218; Balade of Compleint, p. 222—which Prof. Skeat has admitted into his edition of Chaucer's *Minor Poems*.<sup>1</sup>

There is no external evidence for them; no MS. gives them to Chaucer; and the internal evidence of worth is against them, for, tho' they observe his rymes, they are neither characteristic of him nor good enough for him. We cannot admit as valid the canon that all lyric poems which do not transgress Chaucer's laws of ryme, final e, cæsura, &c., and use his phrases, are his. I hope Prof. Skeat 'll bunk these spurious things out of his second edition.

*British Museum, 5 Nov., 1890.*

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P.S. As I forget whether I've heretofore printed the reasons which made me in 1882 give up *The Mother of God* as Chaucer's, and assign it to Hoccleve, I state them now.

The only MS. of the poem I saw myself, Arch. Seld. B 24 (Scotch), gave it to Chaucer.<sup>2</sup> So did the Advocates' Library, Edinburgh, MS. 18, 2, 8.<sup>3</sup> The poem was so much better than Hoccleve's long and dreary englishing of *De Regimine*

<sup>1</sup> He prints *Neve-Fanglennesse* by its old title in Stowe's edition, 'Against Women unconstaunt,' p. 135.

<sup>2</sup> *Parallel Texts*, p. 144, col. 2.

<sup>3</sup> *Parallel Texts*, p. 139, col. 3; p. 144, col. 3. But, as Bradshaw always allowd, the evidence of Scotch MSS. attributions to Chaucer is not worth much. See the Hunterian Society's print of the Bannatyne MS. See also Skeat's *Minor Poems*, p. xliii, line 1, and p. xxxv, the lower half.

*Principis* that I didn't think *The Mother of God* could be his; still, it was not characteristic of Chaucer, had not his mark, and had one non-Chaucer ryme; *honoure, cure*, ll. 64, 66. But in the *Canterbury Tales*, we find *armour* with a double form (see *New Engl. Dict.*)—*cote-armures, trappures, Knight's Tale*, 72/2499, and *cote-armour, flour, Sir Thopas*, 196/2057;—also in the *Venus*, which I hold genuine, *aventure, honoure* (vb.), ll. 22-3. As the Oxford and Edinbro MSS. said it was Chaucer's, Hy. Bradshaw and I accepted it. I did not see the Phillipps MS. of the *Mother of God* when its copy was printed in our *Parallel Texts*. Dr. J. A. H. Murray kindly copied it for me. But when I got to Cheltenham in 1882, and took up the Phillipps MS., I saw it was one of Hoccleve's presentation copies, in the same hand—his own, I hold—as his Durham MS., and his Ashburnham MS., with the double curve of a B inside his W, &c. I had therefore to admit that the MS. evidence was in favour of Hoccleve being the author of *The Mother of God*. On reading the *Virgin* and other short religious poems in the Phillipps MS., and later in the Ashburnham one, I found them far better than Hoccleve's long *De Regimine*, so that he might well have written *The Mother of God*, which I before thought he hadn't wit for. Therefore, his own copy giving him the poem, it not fitting chronologically into Chaucer's works, and its having a ryme which was his and not Chaucer's, besides being more like his work than Chaucer's, I was glad to withdraw my former opinion,—given before I'd seen Hoccleve's three presentation MSS.,—and to acknowledge *The Mother of God* as his.



1.

**The Compleynte to Dite.**

PHILLIPPS MS. 9053.



THE COMPLEYNT TO PITE.

[*Phillipps MS. 9053 paper, ? ab. 1450, p. 91: altered copy of Shirley's Harleian 78, Parallel-Text, p. 41, with his abominable 'vertuous' for 'Herenus' = Erinnyes, in l. 92.*]

And now here folwith A complaynt of pite made bi  
 Geffray Chaucier the Aureat Poete that euer was  
 founde in oure vulgar to fore his dayes

(1)

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Ite whiche that I have . sought so yoer     | 1 |
| p With hert sore . ful of besy peyne        |   |
| That in this world . was no wight woer      |   |
| Without the detñ . and if I shal nat feyne  | 4 |
| My purpos was . of pite for to pleyne       |   |
| And eke vpon . the cruel tirannye           |   |
| Of love that for my trowth . dotñ me to dye | 7 |

(2)

|  |    |
|--|----|
| ¶ And whan that I bethynk' . of certayn yeeris | 8  |
| Had euer in oon . a tyme sought to speke       |    |
| To pite I ran . albe-spreynt with teris        |    |
| To preyen hir . on cruelte me wreke            | 11 |
| But or I myght . with any word out breke       |    |
| Or tellen any . of my peynes smert             |    |
| I fonde pite ded . and buryed in an hert       | 14 |

(3)

|   |         |
|---|---------|
| ¶ And downe I fel . whan I sigh the herse   | [p. 92] |
| Ded as ston . while that the swough last    |         |
| But vp I rose . with colours wel diuerse    |         |
| And pitously . myn Ien on hir cast          | 18      |
| And nere the corpse . I come to presen fast |         |
| And for the soule . I shope me for to prey  |         |
| Me thought me lorn . ther was no nothir wey | 21      |



## (4)

¶ Thus am I slayne . sith that pite is ded<sup>d</sup> 22  
 Alas the day . that euer it shuld<sup>d</sup> befallē  
 ¶ What maner man . dar now heve vp his hede  
 To whom shal . my sorowful hert<sup>t</sup> cal 25  
 Now cruelte hath cast<sup>t</sup> . to slen vs al  
 In Idel hope we live . redles of<sup>t</sup> peyne  
 Sith she is ded<sup>d</sup> . to whom shul we compleyne 28

## (5)

¶ Thus am I slayn . sith that pite is ded<sup>d</sup> truly<sup>1</sup> 29  
 But yet<sup>t</sup> encresith me . this wonder nuwe <sup>1 truly added</sup>  
 That no wight<sup>t</sup> wot<sup>t</sup> hir ded . but<sup>t</sup> only I  
 So many a man . that<sup>t</sup> in hir tyme hir knewe 32  
 And yit<sup>t</sup> she dyed nat<sup>t</sup> . al so sodainly  
 For I have sought<sup>t</sup> hir . ful busily <sup>[some spurtons.]</sup>  
 Sith first<sup>t</sup> I had wit<sup>t</sup> . of<sup>t</sup> mannes mynde  
 But she was dede . or that I cowde hir fynde 36

## (6)

¶ Abowte hir hers . stooden there boistously 37  
 Without<sup>t</sup> makyng<sup>t</sup> dole . as thought<sup>t</sup> me  
 Bounte . Parfite . wele arayed and Richely  
 And fressh<sup>t</sup> beaute . lust<sup>t</sup> and Iolite 40  
 Assured<sup>t</sup> maner . thought<sup>t</sup> and honeste  
 Wisdam estate . drede and gouernauns  
 Considred both<sup>t</sup> . by hand and assurauns 43

## (7)

// A compleynt<sup>t</sup> had I . writen in myn hand<sup>t</sup> 44  
 Fo[r] to have putte . to pite as a biht  
 But<sup>t</sup> whan I al this . company ther fond<sup>t</sup>  
 That<sup>t</sup> rather wolden . al my cause spiht 47  
 Than do me help . I hield<sup>t</sup> my compleynt<sup>t</sup> stiht  
 For to the folkes . without<sup>t</sup> any faile  
 Withouten pite . ne may no bil auaille 50

(8)

|   |    |
|---|----|
| ¶ Than leve I al these vertues sauf pite        | 51 |
| Kepynge the hers . as ye have herd me seyne     |    |
| Confidred al . by band of cruelte               |    |
| And bien assented . that I shalbe slayne        | 54 |
| So thanne I put . my compleynt vp ageyne        |    |
| For to my foomen . my bil I durst nat shewe     |    |
| Theffect of the mater . was this at wordes fewe | 57 |

(9) [*The Bill of Complaint.*] (*Tern I. 1*)

|   |    |
|---|----|
| ¶ Humblesse of hert . highest of reuerence        | 51 |
| Benyngne floure . corowne of vertues al           |    |
| Shewith vnto youre . souerayn excellence          |    |
| Your <i>seruaunt</i> yif I durst . my self so cal | 61 |
| His mortal harme . whiche he is in fal            |    |
| And nat alonly . for his evil fare                |    |
| But for youre Renowne . as I shal declare         | 64 |

(10) (I. 2)

|  |    |
|--|----|
| ¶ It standith thus . yowre contrarie Cruelte     | 65 |
| Alyed is . agenst youre Regalye                  |    |
| Vnder the colour . of wommanly beaute            |    |
| For men shuld nat . loo knowe hir tirannye       | 68 |
| With bounte Gentillesse . and curtesie           |    |
| And hath deprived yow . now of <i>your</i> place |    |
| That hight beaute . apotenaunt to grace          | 71 |

(11) (I. 3)

|   |         |
|---|---------|
| ¶ For kyndely bi youre . heritage and right | 72      |
| Ye beth annexed . euer to beaute            |         |
| And verrailly ye oughten . do youre myght   |         |
| To helpe growth . in his aduersite          | 75      |
| Ye beth also . the corowne of beaute        | [p. 94] |
| And certes . if ye want in this wey         |         |
| The world is lorn . ther is no more to sey  | 78      |

(12) (*Tern II. I*)

|   |    |
|---|----|
| ¶ Eke what' availith . maner or gentillesse           | 79 |
| With yow benygne . and faire creature                 |    |
| Shal cruelte be now . oure <i>gouverneresse</i>       |    |
| Allas . what' hert' . shal may that' endure           | 82 |
| Wherfor but' ye . the rather taken cure               |    |
| To breke of thoo <i>persones</i> alliaunce            |    |
| Ye slen theym . that' bien of' <i>your</i> obeisaunce | 85 |

(13) (*II. 2*)

|   |    |
|---|----|
| ¶ And further ouer . if ye suffren this           | 86 |
| Youre renoun is fredom . that' with a throwe      |    |
| Ther shal no wight' wete . what' peyne is         |    |
| Alas that' youre renoune . shuld be so lowe       | 89 |
| Ye bien than . from <i>your</i> heritage I-throwe |    |
| By cruelte . that' occupieth your place           |    |
| And we dispaired . that' sechen to youre grace    | 92 |

(14) (*II. 3*)

|  |    |
|--|----|
| ¶ Have mercy on me . ye vertuous qwene             | 93 |
| That' yow have sought' . so trewly . and so yoore  |    |
| Lete the streame of youre light' . on me be sene   |    |
| That' lovith and dredith yow . ay lengger the more | 96 |
| The soth for to sey . I bere the hevvy peyne       |    |
| And though I be nat' konnyng' . for to pleyne      |    |
| For goddis love . have mercy on my peyne           | 99 |

(15) (*Tern III. 1*)

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| ¶ My peyne is this . that' what' so I desire        | 100 |
| That' have I nought' . ne nought' that' lith therto |     |
| And <i>euer</i> settith desire . myn hert' on fyre  |     |
| Eke on that' other side . where so I go             | 103 |
| What' maner thyng' . that' may encrease my wo       |     |
| That' have I redy . vnsought' euery where           |     |
| Me lakkith but' my deth . and than my bere          | 106 |

(16) (III. 2)

|  |         |
|--|---------|
| ¶ What nedith it . shewe parcels of my peyne | 107     |
| Sith euery woo . that hert may bethynk'      | [p. 96] |
| I souffre and yit . I dar nat to yow pleyne  |         |
| For wele I wote . although I wake or wynke   | 110     |
| Ye recchen nat . whether I fleete or synk'   |         |
| Yit neuertheles . my trowth I shal sustene   |         |
| Vn-to my detth . and that shal wele be sene  | 113     |

(17) (III. 3)

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| ¶ This is to sey . I wil be youres euere          | 114 |
| Though ye me slee . bi cruelte as a foo           |     |
| Algates my spirit . shal neuer disseuer           |     |
| From your seruice . for any peyne or woo          | 117 |
| Now pite that I haue sought so yore agoo          |     |
| Thus for yowre detth . I may wele wepe and pleyne |     |
| With hert sore . al ful of besy peyne             | 120 |

[The *Balade of Pite* printed in the Appendix, p. 42-6, runs on here, as if it were part of this *Compleynthe*.]



2.

*Anelida and Arcite.*

(THE COMPLAINT ONLY.)

PHILLIPPS MS. 8299.





## ANELIDA AND ARCITE.

### THE COMPLAINT.

[*Phillipps MS. 8299, (about the middle. 2 leaves vellum,  
1 paper. ab. 1450 A.D.).*]

(31) (*Complaint 1. Proem.*)

**S**o thirlith with the poynte of remembraunce [leaf A] 211  
The Swerde of sorowe y-whett with fals plesaunce  
My herte bare of blys and blak' of hewe  
That Turnyd is in to quakyng al my<sup>1</sup> daunce <sup>1 MS. almy</sup>  
My sewertee in to a wapped countenaunce 215

Sith it auaillet̃ not for to be true  
 For who so truyst is it shaH hir rue  
 That semet̃ love and doth her obseruance  
 Always tih oon and change it for no newe 219

(32) (*Complaint 2; Movement I. 1.*)

I wote my selfe as wele as any wight [leaf A, back] 220  
 For I. lovid oon with aH my hert and myght  
 More than my selfe an hundreth M<sup>l</sup> sith [M<sup>l</sup> = thousand]  
 And callid hym myn hertes day and my knyght  
 And was aH his als fer as it was right 224  
 And whan that he was glad than was I blith  
 And his diseas was my det̃ as swyth  
 And he agayne his trouthe hath me plight  
 For euermore his lady me to kyth 228

(33) (*Complaint 3; Movement I. 2.*)

Nowe is he fals allas and causeles 229  
 And of my woo he is so rewtheles  
 That with oute worde hym lust not dayn  
 To bryng a-gayne my sorowfuH hert in pes  
 For he is thaught vp in another lees 233  
 And as hym lust so laghes he at my payn  
 And I canne not my wofuH hert refreyn  
 For to loue hym alwey neuer the lesse  
 [. . . . .] 237

(34) (*Complaint 4; Movement I. 3.*)

And shaH I playn allas the harde stounde 238  
 Vnto my foo that gaue myne hert a wounde  
 And yet desyreth that my herme be more  
 Ye certeyns for that shaH euer be founde  
 None other helpe my sores forto sounde 242  
 My disteyn hath happed so full yore  
 I wot̃ no nother medicyne ne lore  
 I wot̃ be euer as I was ons bounde  
 That I haue said̃ be said̃ for euermore 246

(35) (*Complaint 5; Movement I. 4.*)

|  |          |
|--|----------|
| Alas where is becomyn) your' gentilnesse         | 247      |
| Youre wordis full of pleassaunce and humblenesse |          |
| Your' obseruaunce on so low mautre               |          |
| And your' awaiyng and your besynesse             |          |
| Vppon) me that ye callid) your maistresse        | 251      |
| Your' souerayne lady of this worlde is here      |          |
| Alasse is there now nother worde ne chere        |          |
| Ye witsauf) vpon) myn) heuynesse                 | [leaf B] |
| I-wys your loue I by it all to dere.             | 255      |

(36) (*Complaint 6; Movement I. 5.*)

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Nowe certes swete yf) that ye            | 256   |
| Thus causeles decaused) be               |   |
| Of my dedely aduersite                   |   |
| Youre namely resoune hath) it to respite | 259   |
| To sle your' frende and namely me        |   |
| That neuer yet in no degre               |   |
| Offendid) you as wysely he               |   |
| That all wot of) wo my sowle quyte       | 263   |
| But for I was soo playn) Ersite          | [Shirley's Harl. 7353 has l. 264-8,<br>his other MSS. not.] |
| In all my werkes muche and liteH         |   |
| And so besy you to delyte                |   |
| Myne honoure sauf) meke kynde & free     | 267   |
| ¶ Therefore ye put on me this wite       |   |
| And of my sorowe reche not a myte        |   |
| If) that the swerde of) payne bite       |   |
| My wofull) hert thurgh) your cruelte     | 271   |

(37) (*Complaint 7; Movement I. 6.*)

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| My swete foo whi do ye so for shame    | 272 |
| Thynke ye that forthered) be your name |     |
| To love anew and be vntrue nay         |     |
| And put you in sclaudre newe and blame |     |
| And do me aduersite and grame          | 276 |

That loueth you most god wel þou woost alwey  
 Nowe turne agayne and yet be playn som day  
 And than shaþ this that nowe is mysse be game  
 And aþ foryeuen whiþ that I lyuen may 280

(38) (*Complaint 8; Movement II. 1.*)

Lo hert myne aþ this you for to sayne 281  
 As whether shaþ I pray or els playne  
 Whiche is the way and do you to be true  
 For owther mot I haue you in my chayn  
 Or with the detþ ye mot depart vs twayn 285  
 There be no nother mene weys new  
 For so wisly on my soule god rue  
 Als veraily ye sle me with the payn  
 That may ye see vnfeynyd on my hue 289

(39) (*Complaint 9; Movement II. 2: left out, as in Shirley's MSS., Parallel-Texts, p. 166-7, Supplementary Text, p. 52-3.*)

[ . . . . . 290  
 . . . . .  
 . . . . .  
 . . . . . 294  
 . . . . .  
 . . . . .  
 . . . . . ] 298

(40) (*Complaint 10; Movement II. 3: 4 & 5 rymes in ede.*)

And shaþ I pray and weyueñ womanheede [leaf B, back] 299  
 Nay rather dye than do so fowle a dede  
 To aske mercy causeles what nede  
 [ . . . . .  
 . . . . . 303  
 But if that I to you may no nother wayes bede  
 For myn excuse a skorne shaþ be my mede  
 Your' chere floureth but yt wol not sede  
 Full longe agoo me ougþt have taken hede 307

(41) (*Complaint 11; Movement II. 4.*)

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| For yf I myght haue you to myne agayn          | 308 |
| I myght als wele kepe Aprile fro rayn          |     |
| As to holde you and make you stidfaste         |     |
| O myghty god of treuth souerayn                |     |
| Where is the trowth of man who hath yt slayn   | 312 |
| For who thaym louyth shaft fynde þaim as faste |     |
| Als in a tempest is a roten maste              |     |
| Is that a tame beste þat is ay fayn            |     |
| To flee a-way whan yt is leest agast           | 316 |

(42) (*Complaint 12; Movement II. 5.*)

|                                      |     |
|--------------------------------------|-----|
| Mercy swete yf I myssaye             | 317 |
| Haue I ought spoken oute of þe way   |     |
| I not my wit is half away            |     |
| I fare as doth þe song of Chauntplur | 320 |
| For nowe I playne and nowe I play    |     |
| I am so mased that I deye            |     |
| Arsite hath borñ away the keye       |     |
| Of aH my worldly good auentur        | 324 |
| In aH this world ther' is no creatur |     |
| Wakyng in more discomfitur           |     |
| Than I ne more sorowe endur          |     |
| For if I slepe a forlong or twey     | 328 |
| Euer thynketh me that your' figur    |     |
| Before me standes in a3ur            |     |
| To profir and nowe ensur             |     |
| To be true vnto me tiH ye deye       | 332 |

(43) (*Complaint 13; Movement II. 6.*)

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| This long nyght this wondre sight I drye                    | 333 |
| And on the day for thilk' affray I dye                      |     |
| And of aH this my swete I-wis ye ne reche                   |     |
| And neuer moo myn eyen two ben drye                         |     |
| But to your' ruth and to your' truth I crye [leaf C, paper] | 337 |

But weleaway full fer be thay to feche  
 Thus holdeth me my destenye o wreche  
 And me to rede out of this drede or gye  
 Ne may my wit so weeke is yt not streche 341

(44) (*Compleint 14; Conclusion.*)

Than ende I thus sith I can do no more 342  
 I yeve yt vp for nowe and euermore  
 For shaft I neuer put efte in balaunce  
 My sykernes ne lerñ of loue the lore  
 But as the swanne as I haue harde say yor<sup>d</sup> 346  
 Ageyns his deth syngeth his penaunce  
 So syng I here my destany and chaunce  
 How that Arcite Anelida so sore  
 Hath ther-led with the poynt of remembraunce 350

[*There is no 45th Stanza in Continuation.*]

Here endeth the compleynt of Anelida the Quene of  
 Hermenye vpon fals Arcite of Thebes.

3.

*Truth.*

1. PHILLIPPS MS. 8299.
2. HATTON MS. 73.
3. MS. ARCH. SELD. B. 10.





## TRUTH.

[*Phillipps MS. 8299 (at the end of Chaucer's Tale of  
Grissilde, written on as Part of the Tale).*]

[And let hym care wepe wryng and wayle]

(1)

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Fle from the prees and dwell with sothfastnesse | 1 |
| Suffise the thyne owne though it be smaH        |   |
| For horde hath hate and clymbyng tykylnesse     |   |
| Prees hath envye and wele blente ouer aH        | 4 |
| Favour nomore than thou behove shaft            |   |
| Rewle weH thy self þat other forkis canst rede  |   |
| And treuth the shaft delyuer it is no drede     | 7 |

(2)

|   |               |
|---|---------------|
| Tempest the not aH crokis to redresse       | 8             |
| In trust of her that turnyth as a baH       |               |
| Muche wele stondesth in litiH besynes       |               |
| Be ware therefore to spurne ayenst an aH    | [2nd leaf] 11 |
| Stryv not as doth to Crokke with the waH    |               |
| Daunte thy self that dauntist an opers dede |               |
| And treuth the shaft delyuer it is no drede | 14            |

(3)

|   |    |
|---|----|
| That the is sente receyue in buxumnesse           | 15 |
| The wrastlyng of the worlde askith a faH          |    |
| Here is noon home here nys but wyldernesse        |    |
| Forth pylgryme forth . forth best oute of þy staH | 18 |
| Knowe thy contrey loke vp thanke god of aH        |    |
| Holde the high wey and let thy goste the lede     |    |
| And treuth shaft the delyuer it is no drede       | 21 |

Explicit, &c.

[This MS. follows the 4 best—Par.-Text 407—in reading *Tempest* for *peyne* in l. 8; *Knowe thy contrey* for *Looke vp on hye* in l. 19; and *Holde the high wey* for *Weyve þi lust* in l. 20; but it varies from the two main classes of the MSS. by leaving out *þing* and its variant *good* in l. 2; and reading ‘Suffise the thyne orne,’ a unique half-line, I believe.]

## TRUTH.

[*Hatton MS. 73, leaf 118, back (Bodl. Libr.).*]

## Good conseylle.

(1)

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>F</b> Le fro the prees And dwelle with sothfastnesse | 1 |
| Suffise vn-to thi good though it be smal                |   |
| For hood hath hate . And clymbynge tykulnesse           |   |
| Prees hath enyye . And wele is blent ouer' al           | 4 |
| Sauour' no mor' <sup>1</sup> than the bihoue shal       |   |
| Do wele thi-self that other' folk canst rede            |   |
| And trouthe the shal delyuer' it is no drede            | 7 |

(2)

|  |    |
|--|----|
| ¶ Peyne the nat alle crokede to redresse     | 8  |
| In truste of hir' that turneth as a bal      |    |
| Gret reste stondeth in litle bisnesse        |    |
| be-war' also to spurne a-geynst an al        | 11 |
| Stryf nat as doth the crok with the wal      |    |
| Daunte thi-self that dauntest others dede    |    |
| And trouthe the shal delyuer' it is no drede | 14 |

(3)

|  |    |
|--|----|
| ¶ That the is sent . receyue yn buxumnesse         | 15 |
| the wrastelyngge with the world axseth a fal       |    |
| Her' is non home her' is but wildernesse           |    |
| Forth pilgryme forth . forth beest out of thi stal | 18 |
| Loke vp an hic And thank god of al                 |    |
| Weyve thi luste And lete thi goost the lede        |    |
| And trouthe the shal delyuere it is no drede       | 21 |

<sup>1</sup> The curls of r' really mean e in this copy.

## TRUTH.

[*MS. Arch. Seld. B. 10, leaf (at end of Harding's Chronicle, p. 4 of 'The Prouerbes of Lydgate') : Bodl. Libr.*]

Ecce bonum consilium galfridi chaucers contra  
fortunam.

(1)

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>F</b> Le from the prece & dwell with sothfastnes. | 1 |
| Syffyse vnto thy god thoughe it be smaH.             |   |
| For hoorde hathe hate & clymbynge tykilnes.          |   |
| Prece hathe enuye & welle is blent ouer all.         | 4 |
| Sauoure no more than the behoue shall.               |   |
| Rule thy-selfe that other folke canst rede.          |   |
| And trouthe the shall delyuer it is no drede.        | 7 |

(2)

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Payne the not eche croked to redresse.        | 8  |
| In truste of her that turneth as a ball.      |    |
| Grete rest / stonde in litiH besynes          |    |
| Beware also to sporne agaynst a wall.         | 11 |
| Stryue not as dothe a cocle with a wall.      |    |
| Daunt thy-self that dauntest other dede.      |    |
| And trouthe the shall delyuer it is no drede. | 14 |

(3)

|  |    |
|--|----|
| That the is sente receyue it in buxumnes.        | 15 |
| The wrastlynge of this worlde askethe a fall.    |    |
| Here is non home / here is but wyldernes.        |    |
| Forthe pylgrym forthe beste oute of the stall.   | 18 |
| Loke vp on hyghe an[d] thanke oure lorde of all. |    |
| Weye thy luste and let thy gooste the lede.      |    |
| And trouthe shall the delyuer it is no drede.    | 21 |



4.

**Lack of Stedfastness.**

HATTON MS. 73.



## LACK OF STEDFASTNESS.

[*Hatton MS. 73, leaf 119. (Bodl. Libr.)*.]

These baladdis were send to the kyng.

(1)

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Suntyme this world was so stedefast And stable | 1 |
| that mannes word was obligacioun)              |   |
| But now it is so fals And disceyvable          |   |
| that word and dede as in conclusioun)          | 4 |
| ben no thyng on for turned vp so doun)         |   |
| Is al this world for mede and wilfulnesse      |   |
| that al is lost for lak of stedefastnesse      | 7 |

(2)

|  |    |
|--|----|
| ¶ What maketh this world to be so variable | 8  |
| but lust that folkis han in discensioun)   |    |
| For now adayes a man is holde vnable       |    |
| but yf he can by som collusioun)           | 11 |
| Do to his neyghbur wrong or oppressioun)   |    |
| What causeth that but wilful wrecchednesse |    |
| that al is lost for lak of stedefastnesse  | 14 |

(3)

|  |    |
|--|----|
| ¶ Trouthe is put doun resoun is holde fable  | 15 |
| Vertu hath now no domynacioun)               |    |
| Pyte exiled no man is mercyable              |    |
| thurgh couetyse is blent discrecioun)        | 18 |
| the world hath mad a permutacioun)           |    |
| Fro ryght to wrong fro trouthe to fikulnesse |    |
| that al is lost for lak of stedefastnesse    | 21 |

MORE ODD TEXTS.

o

B. 100

AD.

## // Lenvoy //

|  |    |
|--|----|
| ¶ O . prince desyre to be honorable                                      | 22 |
| Cherysshe thi folk . and hate extorcioun)                                |    |
| Suffre no thyng <sup>t</sup> that may be reproveable                     |    |
| to thyn <sup>n</sup> estate don <sup>n</sup> in thi regioun)             | 25 |
| Shewe forth thi swerd <sup>t</sup> of castigacioun)                      |    |
| Drede god <sup>t</sup> . do lawe . loue trouthe <i>and</i> rightwesnesse |    |
| And dryue thi peple a-gayn <sup>n</sup> to stedefastnesse.               | 28 |



5.

*Fortune.*

MS. ARCH. SELD. B. 10.



## FORTUNE.

[*MS. Arch. Seld. B. 10, at end of Harding's Chronicle,*  
*and p. 2 of 'The Prouerbes of Lydgate,' Bodl. Libr.]*

### *Paupertas conqueritur super fortunam.*

(1)

**T**His wredchid wo[r]lde is transmucioun. 1  
As wehe / and wo / now pore / & now / honour.  
Withouten ordre / or wyse dyscrecyon.  
Gouernede ys by fortunes erreure. 4  
But neuertheles / the lacke of her faouere.  
Ne may not do me / synge thoughe þat I dye.  
I'ay toutz perdu mon temps et mon labour.  
For fynally / fortune I defye. 8

(2)

Yet me lefte the syght of my reason. 9  
To knowe frende fro fo in my myrroure.  
So moche hath yet thy turnynge vp and downe.  
I-taught me to knowe in an houre. 12  
But treuly no fors of thy reddoure.  
To hym that on hym-selfe hathe maystry.  
My suffysaunce shall be my socoure.  
For fynally fortune I defye. 16

(3)

O socrates thou stedfast champion. 17  
She myght neuer be thy tormentoure.  
Thou neuer dreddest her oppressyon.  
Ne in her chere founde thou no faouere. 20  
Thou knewe well / the deceyte of her coloure.  
And that her moste worship is to lye.  
I know her eke / a fals dyssymuloure.  
For fynally fortune I dyffye. 24

(4) **Puer.** Fortuna ad paupertatem.

No man is wretchede but hym selfe it wene. 25  
 And he that hathe hym-self hathe suffysaunce.  
 Why sayst thou than I am to the so kene.  
 That hast thy-self oute of my gouernaunce. 28  
 Say thus gramercy of thyne haboundaunce.  
 That thou hast lent / or this thou shalt not stryue.  
 What wotest thou yet hou I will the auaunce.  
 And eke thou haste / thy best frende alyue. 32

## (5)

I haue the taught / dyuysyoun betwene. 33  
 Frende of effecte / and frende of countenaunce.  
 The nedeth not / the gall of non hen.  
 That cureth eyen / duk for penaunce. 36  
 Nowe seyst thou clere / that were in yngnoraunce.  
 Yet holde thyn anker / and yet thou mayst aryue.  
 There bounte bereth / the keye of my substaunce.  
 And eke thou hast thy best frende alyue. 40

## (6)

How many haue I refusede to sustene 41  
 Syth I the fosterede / haue in my pleasaunce.  
 Wylte thou than make / A statute on thy quene. [p. 3]  
 That I shall be ay at thyne ordynaunce. 44  
 Thow borne arte in my reygne of varyaunce.  
 Aboute the whele with other must thou dryue.  
 My lore is better than thy wycked gouernaunce.  
 And eke thou hast thy best frende alyue. 48

(7) **Paupertas ad fortunam.**

Thy lore I dampne . it is aduersyte. 49  
 My frende / mayst thou not rene blynde goddes  
 And that I frendes knewe / I thanke it the.  
 Take them agayne / let them go lye on presse. 52  
 The negardes / kepynge theyre ryches.  
 Pronostyke is / her toure thou wylt assayle.  
 Wyckede appetyte / cometh a before sykenesse.  
 In generall this rule may not fayle. 56

(8) **Fortuna ad paupertatem.**

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Thow pynchest' at my mutabilite.                  | 57 |
| For I the lente a droppe of my rychesse.          |    |
| And nowe me lykethe to withdrawe me.              |    |
| Why sholdest' thou my royallte oppresse.          | 60 |
| The se may ebbe / and flowe more and lesse.       |    |
| The skye hathe myght' / to shyne rayne and hayll. |    |
| Right' so may I stowe my britynesse.              |    |
| In generall this rule may not fayll.              | 64 |

(9) **Paupertas ad fortunam.**

|  |    |
|--|----|
| So execucion of the mageste.               | 65 |
| That' all puruayeth of his ryghtwysnes.    |    |
| That same thyng fortune clepe ye.          |    |
| Ye blynde bestes / full of rudenesse.      | 68 |
| The heuen hathe properte of sykernesse.    |    |
| This worlde hathe euer / restles trauayll. |    |
| Thy last' day is ende of myne intresse.    |    |
| In generall I this rule may not fayle.     | 72 |

Fines.

[*Follows* :—*Ecce bonum consilium galfridi chaucers contra fortunam. Printed above, p. 29.*]



6.

Hurst.

PHILLIPPS MS. 9053.





## PURSE.

[*Phillipps MS. 9053. Paper, 1 ab. 1450, page 31.*]

Chaucer [*in Jn. Stow's hand*].

(1)

|  |   |
|--|---|
| O yow my purse . and to nonother wight       | 1 |
| t' Compleyne I . for yow [are] my lady deere |   |
| I am so sory that' ye bien light'            |   |
| For certis . but if' ye make me hevychiere   | 4 |
| Me were as lief . to be leyde on biere       |   |
| For whiche . vnto yowre mercy thus I crye    |   |
| Beth hevycheyne . or ellis must' I dye       | 7 |

(2)

|   |    |
|---|----|
| ¶ Now fouchesauf' this day . or it' be nyght  | 8  |
| That I of' yow . the blisful sowne may here   |    |
| To se youre coloure . as the sonne bright'    |    |
| That' of' yowre eye . lownesse hath' no peere | 11 |
| Ye bien my light' . ye be myn hertis feere    |    |
| Qwene of' comfort' . and of' company          |    |
| Beeth hevycheyn . or ellis must' I dye        | 14 |

(3)

|   |    |
|---|----|
| ¶ Now purse that' beth' to me my lyf' my light'   | 15 |
| And souerayne lady downe . in this world' here    |    |
| Out of' this towne . help me thurgh' youre myght' |    |
| Sith' that' ye wil nat' . be my tresorere         | 18 |
| For I am shave as nygh' . as any frere            |    |
| For whiche . vnto youre mercy I crye              |    |
| Bieth hevycheyne . or ellis must' I dye           | 21 |

Thus farr is printed in Chauce[r] fol. 320. vnder y<sup>e</sup> name  
of Tho: Occleue. /

[Lydgate's 'Allas fortune . allas what' haue I gilt,' is added  
as a continuation of Chaucer's Poem, as in Harl. 2251,  
*Par.-Text* 449, col. 3.]



## Appendix.

1. THE BALADE OF PITEE (Phillipps MS. 9053) with a unique final stanza.
2. ROUNDELS (Pepys MS. 2006).

## I. THE BALADE OF PITE.

(Phillips MS. 9053, ff. 95, where it is written in stanzas—1st lines are marked ¶—as part of the *Compleynte to Pite* printed above, p. 11—15. All the lines start level in the MS., but are inset here, to show the structure of the poem. This copy is from one of Shirley's: cp. *Elas*, l. 51. For the other Shirley copy, Harl. 78, see our *Old Texts of Chaucer's Minor Poems*, Appendix, p. ii—v.)

## (I. 7-line Stanzas, 1)

|   |   |
|---|---|
| ¶ The longe nyghtis . whan euery creature       | 1 |
| Shuld have theyr rest . in somewhat be kynde    |   |
| Or ellis ne may theyr lif . nought longe endure |   |
| It fallith most . in to my wooful mynde         |   |
| How I so fer have brought . my self behynde     | 5 |
| That sauf the deth . ther may nothyng me lisse  |   |
| So dispaired I am . from al blisse              | 7 |

## (I. 2)

|  |    |
|--|----|
| ¶ This same thought . me lastith til the morow | 8  |
| And from the morow . furth til it be Eve       |    |
| There nedith me . no care for to borow         |    |
| For both I have gode leyser . and goode love   |    |
| Ther is no wight . that wil my wo bireve       | 12 |
| To wepe Inough . and wailen al my fiH          |    |
| The sore spark of peyne . now doth me spiH     | 14 |

(3) [II. *Terza Rima*, 1]

|   |    |
|---|----|
| [. . . . . -iH]                                 |    |
| ¶ This love that hath me set . in suche a place |    |
| That desire . wil neuer fulfilH                 | 17 |

For neither pite . mercy . neyther grace . [p. 96]  
 Can I nat' fynde . and yit' my sorowful hert'  
 For to be dede . I can it' nat' arace 20

The more I love . the more she doth me smert'  
 Thurgñ whiche . without' remedye  
 That' from the dethe . I may in no wise astert' 23

(4) [II. *Terza Rima*, 2]

¶ Now sothly what' she hight' . I wil reherce 24  
 Hir name is bounte . set in wommanhede  
 Sadnesse in yowth . and beaute prideles  
 And plesaunce . vnder gouernaunce and drede 27

Hir surname ie<sup>1</sup> eke . faire rowtheles [1 so in MS., for is]  
 The wise I-knyt' . vnto goode aventure  
 That' for I love hir . she sleeth me giltles 30

Hir love I best' . and shal while I may dure  
 ¶ Better than my self' . an hundred thousand dele  
 Than al this worldis . riches or creature 33

Now hath nat' love . me bestowed wele  
 To love there . I neuer shal haue part'  
 Elas right' thus . Is turned me the whele 36

Thus am I slayn . with loves fury dart'  
 I can but' love hir best' . my swete foo  
 Love hath me taught' . nomore of his art' 39  
 But' *serve* al wey . and stynt' for no woo 40

(5) [III. *Ten-line Stanzas*, 1]

¶ In my trewe careful hert . there is  
 So moche woo . and so litel blisse  
 That' woo is me . that' euer I was bore 43

For al thyng' whiche I desire I mysse  
 And al that' euer I wold' nat' Iwisse  
 That' fynd' I redy . to me euermore 46

And of al this I not' to whom me pleyne  
 For she that' myght' . me out' of this bryng'  
 Ne recchith nought' . whether I wepe or syng'e  
 So litel rowth . hath she vpon my peyne [p. 97] 50

(6) (III. 2)

¶ Elas whan slepyng' tyme is . lo than I wake  
 Whan I shuld' daunce . for feere lo than I qwake  
 [. . . . .] 53  
 This hevvy liff' I leede . loo for yowre sake  
 Though ye therof' . in no wise heede take  
 [. . . . . *no gaps in the MS.*] 56  
 Myn hertis lady . and hole my lives qwene  
 For trewly durst' I sey . and that' I fele  
 Me semeth that' *your* sweete hert' of' steele  
 Is whetted now . ayens me to kene 60

(7) (III. 3)

¶ My dere hert' . and best' be-loved foo  
 Why likith yow . to do me al this woo  
 What' haue I don : that' grevith yow or saide 63  
 But for I *serve* . and love yow and no mo  
 And while I live . I wil euer do soo  
 And therfor sweete . me beth nat' evil apayed' 66  
 For so goode and so faire . as ye be  
 It were right' grete wonder . but' ye had'  
 Of' al *seruauntis* . both of goode and bad'  
 And lest' worthy of' al hem . I am he 70

(8) (III. 4)

¶ But' *neuertheles* . my right' lady swete  
 Though that' I be vnkonyng' and vnmeete  
 To *serve* as I kowde . ay yowre hienesse 73  
 Yit' is ther non fayner . that' wolde I heete  
 Than I to do youre ease . or ellis beete  
 What' so I wist' . that' were to your hyenesse 76  
 And had I myght' . as goode as I haue wil  
 Than shuld' ye feele . where it were so or non  
 For in this world' . than livyng' is ther non  
 That' fayner wolde . youre her. . . . . 80

(9) (III. 5)

|  |         |
|--|---------|
| ¶ For both I love . and eke drede yow so sore  | [p. 98] |
| And algatis mote . and have yow don ful yooore |         |
| That bettir loved is . non ne neuer shal       | 83      |
| And yit I wold besechen yow of nomore          |         |
| But lovith wele . and beth nat wroth therfore  |         |
| And lete me serue yow forth . lo this is al    | 86      |
| For I am nat so hardy . ne so woode            |         |
| For to desire . that ye shuld love me          |         |
| For wele I wote . elas that wil nat be         |         |
| I am so litel worthy . and ye so goode         | 90      |

(10) (III. 6)

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| For ye be oon . the worthyest on lyve         |     |
| And I the most vnikly . for to thryve         |     |
| ¶ Yit for al this . witeth ye right wele      | 93  |
| That ye ne shul me . from youre service dryve |     |
| That I ne wil ay . with al my wittes fyve     |     |
| Serve yow triewly . what wo so that I fele    | 96  |
| For I am sette on yow . in suche manere       |     |
| That though ye neuer wil . vpon me rewe       |     |
| I must yow love . and bien euer als triew     |     |
| As any man can . or may on live [here]        | 100 |

(11) (III. 7)

|  |             |
|--|-------------|
| ¶ But the more that I love . yow goodly free |             |
| The lasse fynd I . that ye loven me          |             |
| Elas whan shal that . hard witte amend       | 103         |
| Where is now . al your wommanly pite         |             |
| Your gentilnesse and your debonarite         |             |
| Wil ye nothyng therof . vpon me spende       | 106         |
| And so hool swete . as I am yowres al        |             |
| And so grete wil . as I haue yow to serve    |             |
| Now cert . . . . . me thus sterve            |             |
| Yet have wonne theron . but a smal           | [p. 99] 110 |

## (12) (III. 8.)

¶ For at my knowyngt . I do nat why  
 And this I wil beseche . yow hertily  
     That there euer ye finde . whiles ye live           113  
 A triewer *seruaunt* to yow . than am I  
 Loveth thanne . and sle me hardily  
     And [I] my deth to yow . wil al forgyve           116  
 And if ye fynde no trewer . so verily  
     Wil ye suffre than . that I thus spil  
     And for no maner gilt . but my goode wil  
 Als goode were thanne . vntriewe as triewe triewly   120

(31) (*Unique final stanza*, III. 9)

¶ But I my lif and deth . to yow obey  
 And with right buxum hert . holy I prey  
     As youre most plesure . so doth by me           123  
 For wele leuer is me . liken yow and dye  
 Than for to any thyngt . or thynk or say  
     That yow myght offenden . in any tyme           126  
 And therfor swete . rewe on my peynes smert  
     And of *your* grace . grauntith me som drope  
     For ellis may me last . no blisse ne hope  
 Ne dwelle withyn . my trouble careful hert           130

Explicit Pyte

dan Chaucer Lauceire (?)



II. ROUNDELS (MERCILESS BEAUTE).<sup>1</sup>(From MS. Pepys 2006, p. 390 *and last.*)[I. *Captivity.*]

Yowre two yen wof̄ sle me sodenly  
 I may the beaute of them not sustene  
 So wondeth it thorow out my herte kene  
 And but *your* word̄ wiſt helen̄ hastely 4  
 Mi hertis wound̄ while that it is grene  
*Your* yen̄ &c. [= *two first lines.*]  
 Vp-on my trowth I sey yow feithfully 8  
 That ye beñ of my liffe and deth the quene  
 For *with* my deth the trowth shalbe sene  
*Your* yen̄ &c. [= *three first lines.*]

[II. *Rejection.*]

So hath yowre Beaute fro *your* herte chaced̄  
 Pitee that me nauailleth not to pleyñ  
 For danger halt *your* mercy in his Cheyne 16  
 Giltless my deth thus hañ ye me purchaced  
 I sey yow soth me nedeth not to fayn  
 So hath *your* Beaute &c. [= *lines 14, 15.*]  
 Alas þat nature hath in yow compased 21  
 So grete beaute þat no mañ may atteyñ  
 To *mercy* though he sterue for the peyñ  
 So hath *your* beaute &c. [= *lines 14, 15, 16.*]

[III. *Escape.*]

Syñ I fro loue escaped̄ am so fat  
 I neuere thank to beñ in his prison̄ lene 28

<sup>1</sup> *No title in MS. The words 'Mercillesse Beaute' occur in the Index to the MS., with reference to this poem.—W. W. Skeat.*

Syn I am fre I Counte hym not a bene  
 He may answere & sey this and that  
 I do no fors I speke ryght as I mene 31  
 Syn I fro loue &c. [= *lines 27, 28.*]  
 Love hath my name I strike out of his sclat  
 And he is strike out of my bokes Clene  
 For eurr mo this is nofi oþer mene 36  
 Syn I fro loue &c. [= *lines 27, 28, 29.*]

*Explicit.*

N.B. The copy printed by Percy (*Reliques of Ancient Poetry*, Series the Second, Book I), though taken from this MS., abounds in errors. Not counting expansions of contractions, &c., his errors are as follows:—1. Youre; eyn will. 3. wendeth. 4. words. 5. My. 6. Youre two eyn will sle me sodenly (*where the MS. has only Your yeñ &c., and is here right in making yen follow Your immediately*). 14. youre beauty; chased. 15. n'availleth. 16. daunger. 17. have; *omits* me; purchased. 21. compassed. 24. youre. 28. nere thinke. 31. speak. 36. P. *suggests* ther for this (*probably he is right; but he omits to give the reading this*).—W. W. Skeat.

Chaucer Society.

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More Odd Texts

OF

Chaucer's Minor Poems.

EDITED BY

F. J. FURNIVALL, M.A., HON. DR. PHIL.

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LONDON :

PUBLISHED FOR THE CHAUCER SOCIETY

By KEGAN PAUL, TRENCH, TRÜBNER & CO.,  
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1886.

# The Chaucer Society.

*Editor in Chief*:—F. J. FURNIVALL, Esq., 3, St George's Square, Primrose Hill, N. W.

*Hon. Sec.*:—W. A. DALZIEL, Esq., 67, Victoria Road, Finsbury Park, London, N.

## THE CHAUCER SOCIETY'S PUBLICATIONS.

To do honour to CHAUCER, and to let the lovers and students of him see how far the best unprinted Manuscripts of his works differ from the printed texts, this Society was founded in 1868. There were then, and are still, many questions of metre, pronunciation, orthography, and etymology yet to be settled, for which more prints of Manuscripts were and are wanted; and it is hardly too much to say that every line of Chaucer contains points that need reconsideration. The founder (Dr Furnivall) began with *The Canterbury Tales*, and has given of them (in parallel columns in Royal 4to) six of the best theretofore unprinted Manuscripts known. Inasmuch as the parallel arrangement necessitated the alteration of the places of certain tales in some of the MSS, a print of each MS has been issued separately, following the order of its original. The first six MSS printed have been: the Ellesmere (by leave of the Earl of Ellesmere); the Hengwrt (by leave of W. W. E. Wynne, Esq.); the Camb. Univ. Libr., MS Gg. 4. 27; the Corpus, Oxford; the Petworth (by leave of Lord Leconfield); and the Lansdowne 851 (Brit. Mus.). The Harleian 7334 has followed.

Of Chaucer's *Minor Poems*,—the MSS of which are generally later than the best MSS of the *Canterbury Tales*,—all the available MSS have been printed, so as to secure all the existing evidence for the true text.

The *Troilus* Parallel-Text from the 3 best MSS has been issued, and a 4th MS text of it with the english *Boccaccio* Comparison.

To secure the fidelity and uniform treatment of the texts, Dr F. J. Furnivall has read and will read all with their MSS.

*Autotypes* of most of the best Chaucer MSS have been published.

The Society's publications are issued in two Series, of which the first contains the different texts of Chaucer's works; and the Second, such originals of and essays on these as can be procured, with other illustrative treatises, and Supplementary Tales.

Messrs Kegan Paul, Trench, Trübner & Co., 57, Ludgate Hill, London, E.C., are the Society's publishers, Messrs R. Clay & Sons, Ltd, London and Bungay, its printers, and the Alliance Bank, Bartholomew Lane, London, E.C., its bankers. The yearly subscription, which constitutes Membership, is 2 guineas, due on every 1st January, beginning with Jan. 1, 1868. *More Members are wanted. All the Society's Publications can still be had. Those of the first year and some others have been reprinted.*

Prof. Child, of Harvard College, Cambridge, Massachusetts, is the Society's Honorary Secretary for America. Members' names and subscriptions may be sent to the Publishers, or to the Honorary Secretary.

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### FIRST SERIES.

The Society's issue for 1868, in the **First Series**, is,

I. The Prologue and Knight's Tale, of the *Canterbury Tales*, in 6 parallel Texts (from the 6 MSS named below), together with Tables, showing the Groups of the Tales, and their varying order in 38 MSS of the Tales, and in 5 old printed editions, and also Specimens from several MSS of the "Moveable Prologues" of the *Canterbury Tales*,—The Shipman's Prologue, and Franklin's Prologue,—when moved from their right places, and of the Substitutes for them. (The Six-Text, Part I.)

|      |   |                       |         |
|------|---|-----------------------|---------|
| II.  | The Prologue and Knight's Tale from the Ellesmere | MSS.                  | Part I. |
| III. | " " " " " " " "                                   | Hengwrt " 154         | " "     |
| IV.  | " " " " " " " "                                   | Cambridge " Gg. 4. 27 | " "     |
| V.   | " " " " " " " "                                   | Corpus " Oxford       | " "     |
| VI.  | " " " " " " " "                                   | Petworth " "          | " "     |
| VII. | " " " " " " " "                                   | Lansdowne " 851       | " "     |

(separate issues of the Texts forming Part I of the Six-Text edition.)

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|       |  |               |   |
|-------|--|---------------|---|
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| IX.   | " " " " " " " "                          | Hengwrt "     |   |
| X.    | " " " " " " " "                          | Cambridge "   |   |
| XI.   | " " " " " " " "                          | Corpus "      |   |
| XII.  | " " " " " " " "                          | Petworth "    |   |
| XIII. | " " " " " " " "                          | Lansdowne "   |   |

(separate issues of the Texts forming the Six-Text, Part II, No. XIV.)

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15. *Originals and Analogues of Chaucer's Canterbury Tales*, Part III. 13. The Story of Constance, for the *Mau of Law's Tale*. 14. The Boy killed by a Jew for singing 'Gaude Maria,' an Analogue of the *Prioress's Tale*. 15. The Paris Beggar-boy murdered by a Jew for singing 'Alma redemptoris mater!' an Analogue of the *Prioress's Tale*; with a Poem by Lydgate.

16. *Essays on Chaucer, his Words and Works*, Part III. 7. Chaucer's Prioress, her Nun Chaplain and 3 Priests, illustrated from the Paper Survey of St Mary's Abbey, Winchester, by F. J. Furnivall. 8. Alliteration in Chaucer, by Dr. Paul Lindner. 9. Chaucer a Wielifite; a critical Examination of the *Parsons Tale*, by Herr Hugo Simon. 10. The sources of the Wife of Bath's Prologue: Chaucer not a borrower from John of Salisbury, by the Rev. W. W. Woollocombe.

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Of the **Second Series**, the issue for **1884** (none in 1879, '80, '81, '82, '83, '85) is,

19. *Essays on Chaucer, his Words and Works*, Part V: 13. Chaucer's *Pardoner*: his character illustrated by documents of his time, by Dr J. J. Jusserand. 14. Why the *Romaunt of the Rose* is not Chaucer's, by Prof. Skeat, M.A. 15. Chaucer's *Schipman*, and his Barge 'The Maudelayne,' by P. Q. Karkeek, Esq. 16. Chaucer's *Parson's Tale* compared with Frère Lorens's *Somme de Vices et de Vertus*, by Wilhelm Eilers, Ph.D., 1882, englisht 1884. 17. On Chaucer's Reputed Works, by T. L. Kingten-Oliphant, M.A.

Of the **Second Series**, the issue for **1886** is,

20. *Originals and Analogues of the Canterbury Tales*. Part IV. Eastern Analogs I, by W. A. Clouston.

21. *Life-Records of Chaucer*, Part III, *a*. The Household book of Isabella, wife of Prince Lionel, third son of Edward III, in which the name of GEOFFREY CHAUCER first occurs; edited from the unique MS in the Brit. Mus., by Edward A. Bond, LL.D., Chief Librarian. *b*. Chaucer as Forester of North Petherton, Somerset, 1390-1400, by Walford D. Selby, Esq. With an Appendix by Walter Rye, Esq., on I, Chaucer's Grandfather; II, Chaucer's connection with Lynn and Norfolk.

Of the **Second Series**, the issue for **1887** is,

22. *Originals and Analogues of the Canterbury Tales*, Part V (completing the volume). Eastern Analogs, II, by W. A. Clouston.

23. John Lane's *Continuation of Chaucer's Squire's Tale*, edited by F. J. Furnivall from the 2 MSS in the Bodleian Library, Oxford, A.D. 1616, 1630. Part I, the Text and Forewords.

24. *Supplementary Canterbury Tales*: 2. The Tale of *Beryn*, Part II. Forewords by F. J. Furnivall, Notes by F. Vipan, M.A. &c., and Glossary by W. G. Stone; with an Essay on Analogs of the Tale, by W. A. Clouston.

Of the **Second Series**, the issue for **1888** is,

25. *Early English Pronunciation*, with especial reference to Shakspere and Chaucer, by Alexander J. Ellis, Esq., F.R.S. Part V, Division 1.

[This was inadvertently markt No. 27 for 1889, on Cover and Title-page.]

Of the **Second Series**, the issue for **1889** is,

26. John Lane's *Continuation of Chaucer's Squire's Tale*. Part II, Glossary and Index, by Thomas Austin; On the Magical Elements in the *Squire's Tale*, with Analogues, by W. A. Clouston.

Of the **Second Series**, the issues for **1890** and **1891** will be chosen from

*Lydgate's Siege of Thebes*, edited from the MSS by Dr Axel Erdmann. [Text set. A detailed Study of the MSS of the *Troilus*, their forms and grammar, by George Lyman Kittredge, M.A. [At Press.]  
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*Among the Texts and Essays, &c., preparing for the Chaucer Society are:—*

*Life-Records of Chaucer*, Part IV, Enrolments and Documents from the Public Record Office, the City of London Town-Clerk's Office, &c., edited by Dr Furnivall.

[*This is at Press.*]

Chaucer's *Road to Canterbury*, with Ogilby's Plan of it, 1675, and William Smith's Plan of the City of Canterbury in 1588; by the Rev. Canon W. A. Scott Robertson, M.A., Hon. Sec. of the Kent Archaeological Institute.

'A detailed Comparison of Chaucer's *Knight's Tale* with the *Teseide* of Boccaccio,' by HENRY WARD, M.A., of the MS Department of the British Museum. [*At Press.*]

*Melibé et Prudence*, the French Original of Chaucer's 'Tale of Melibé,' edited from the MSS by Dr Mary Noyes Colvin.

A volunteer-compiler of *The Praise of Chaucer* from his day to ours, is wanted.

#### SAMPLE TALE FROM ALL THE OTHER MSS OF THE CANTERBURY TALES.

As many Chaucer Students have often wanted to know what kind of text was contained in the MSS of the Canterbury Tales other than the Seven printed by the Chaucer Society—the Ellesmere, Hengwrt Cambridge Gg, Corpus (Oxford), Petworth, Lansdowne, and Harleian 7334—the Director resolved to print a sample Tale from all the accessible MSS of the Tales.<sup>1</sup> He wisht to have *The Wife of Bath's Prolog and Tale*, because they show the most variations, but as Prof. Zupitza, who most kindly volunteered to classify the MSS and edit their sample Tales, objected to the subject of the *Wife's Prolog*, the Director proposed *The Pardoner's Prolog and Tale* (which apparently showed the next number of changes of reading), and Prof. Zupitza accepted this *Prolog and Tale*.

Mr Thomas Austin accordingly went round to the different public, College and private Libraries where MSS of the Tales are, and copied this *Prolog and Tale*, collating his copy with each original. He likewise made a list of the Contents (and a few special readings) of every MS, for the like lists of the late HENRY BRADSHAW—that good friend of the Society and leader of English Chaucer workers—so long promised to us to print, were, after his death, not made available for the Society's use. Prof. Zupitza has classified roughly all the MSS, and has sent to press the *Pardoner's Prolog and Tale* from the seven which are more or less of the Ellesmere or A type. The others of different types will follow in due course.

<sup>1</sup> Lord Ashburton's and Lady Cardigan's MSS are not at present to be seen, from the owners' dog-in-the-mangerism.

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Founded in July 1881 by Dr Furnivall and Miss Hickey, for the study of the Works of ROBERT BROWNING, the performance of his Plays, &c. Subscription 1 guinea a year. *Hon. Sec.* E. E. Davies, 2, Wallace Road, Canonbury, London, N.

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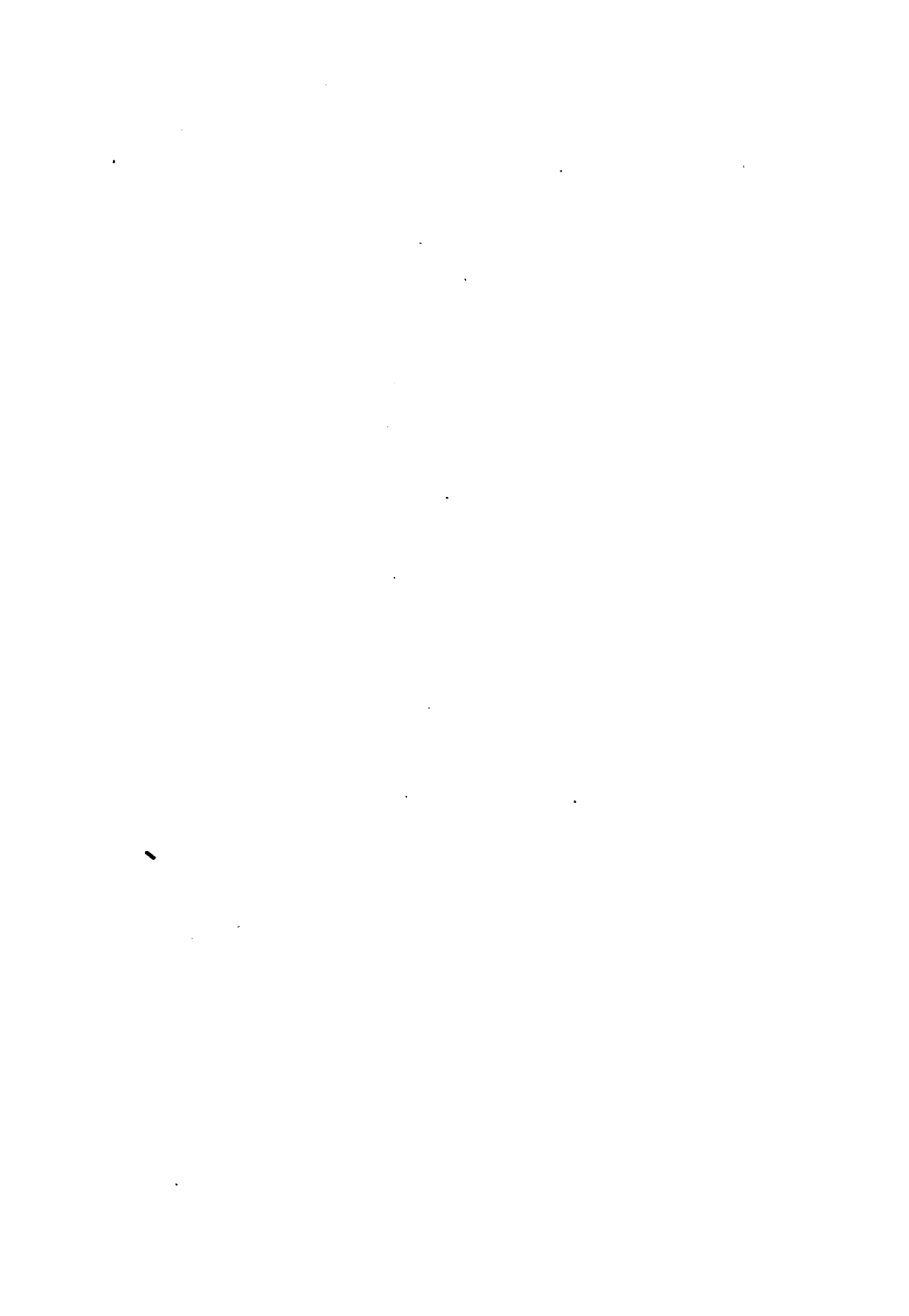
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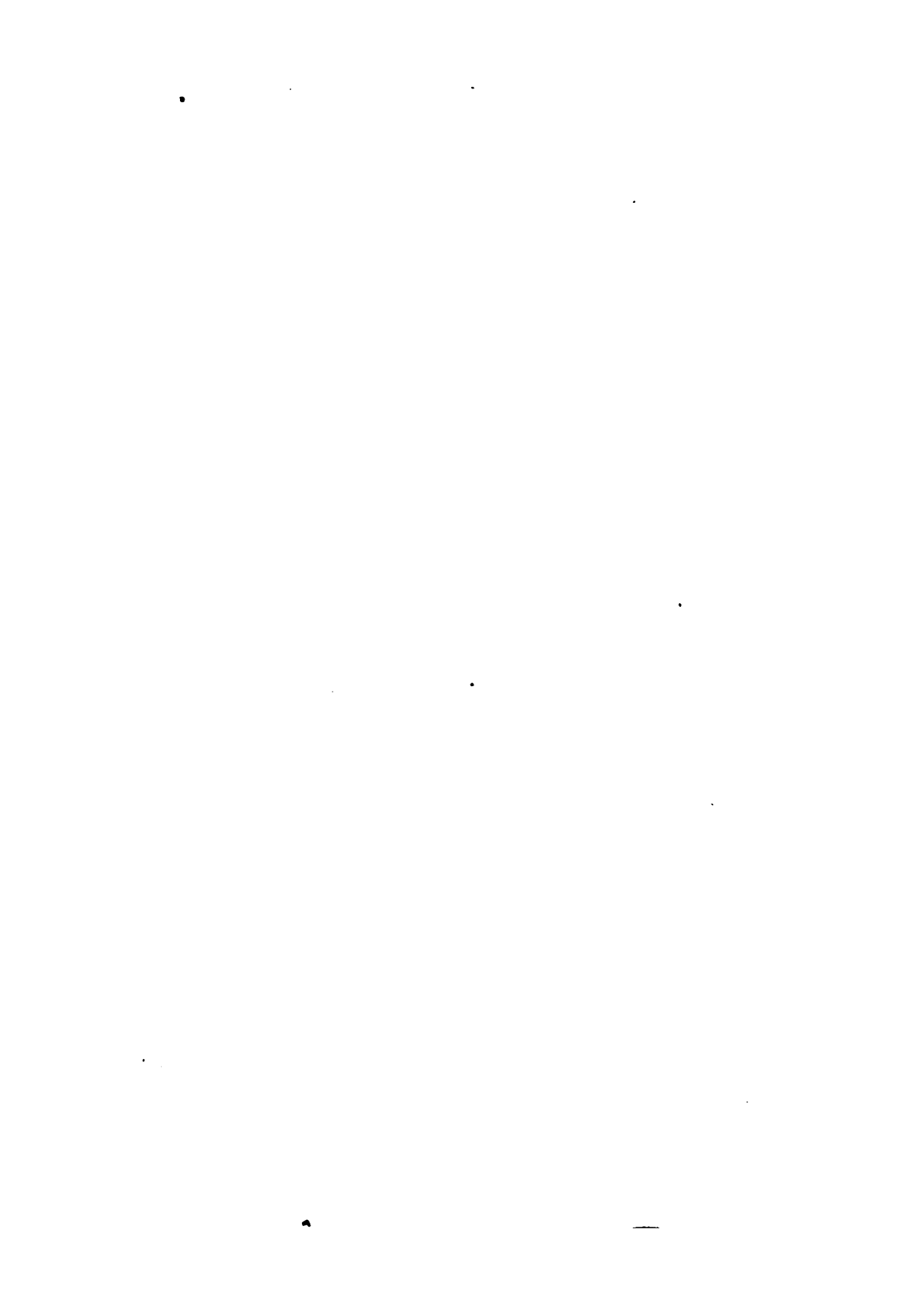




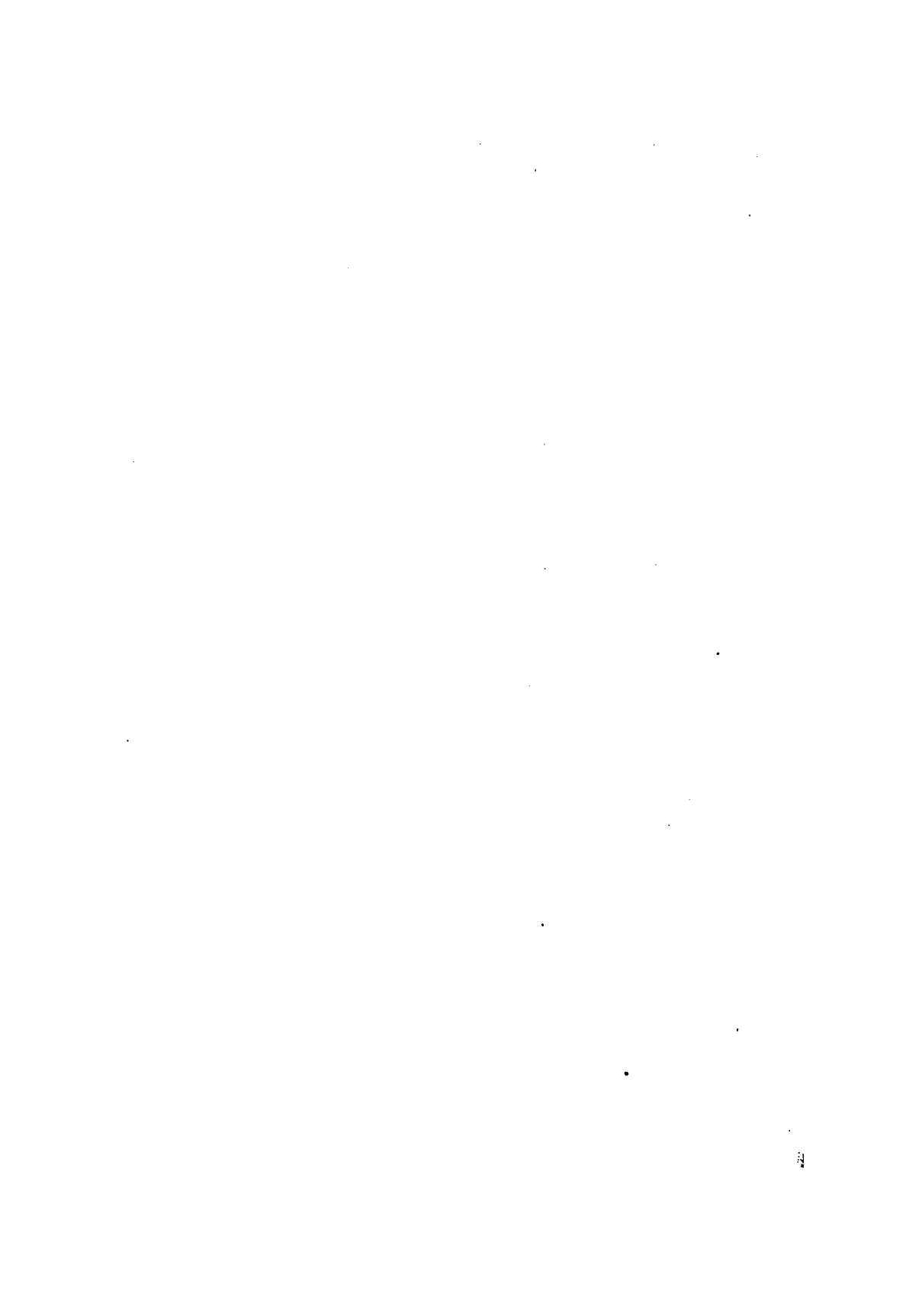


















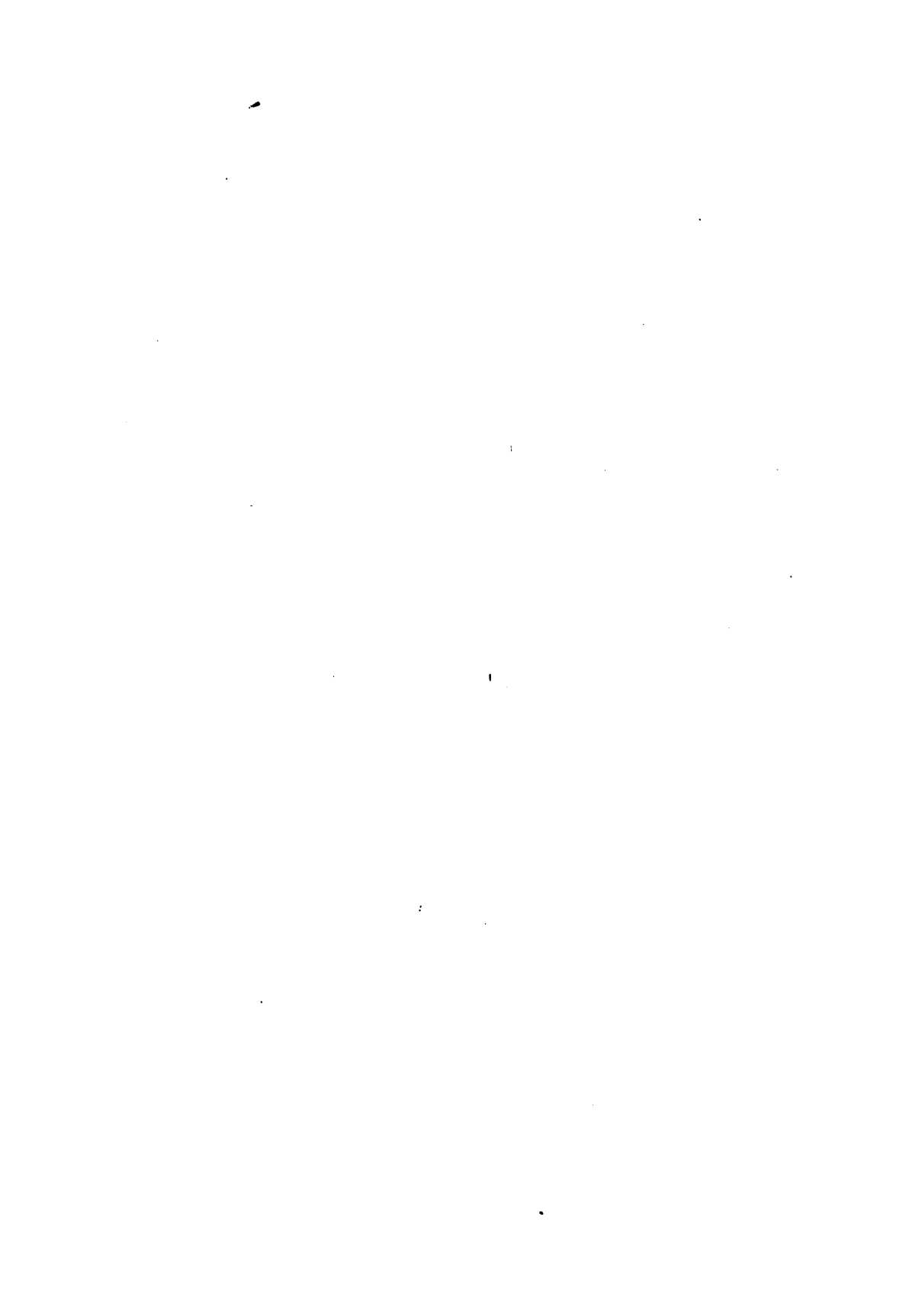










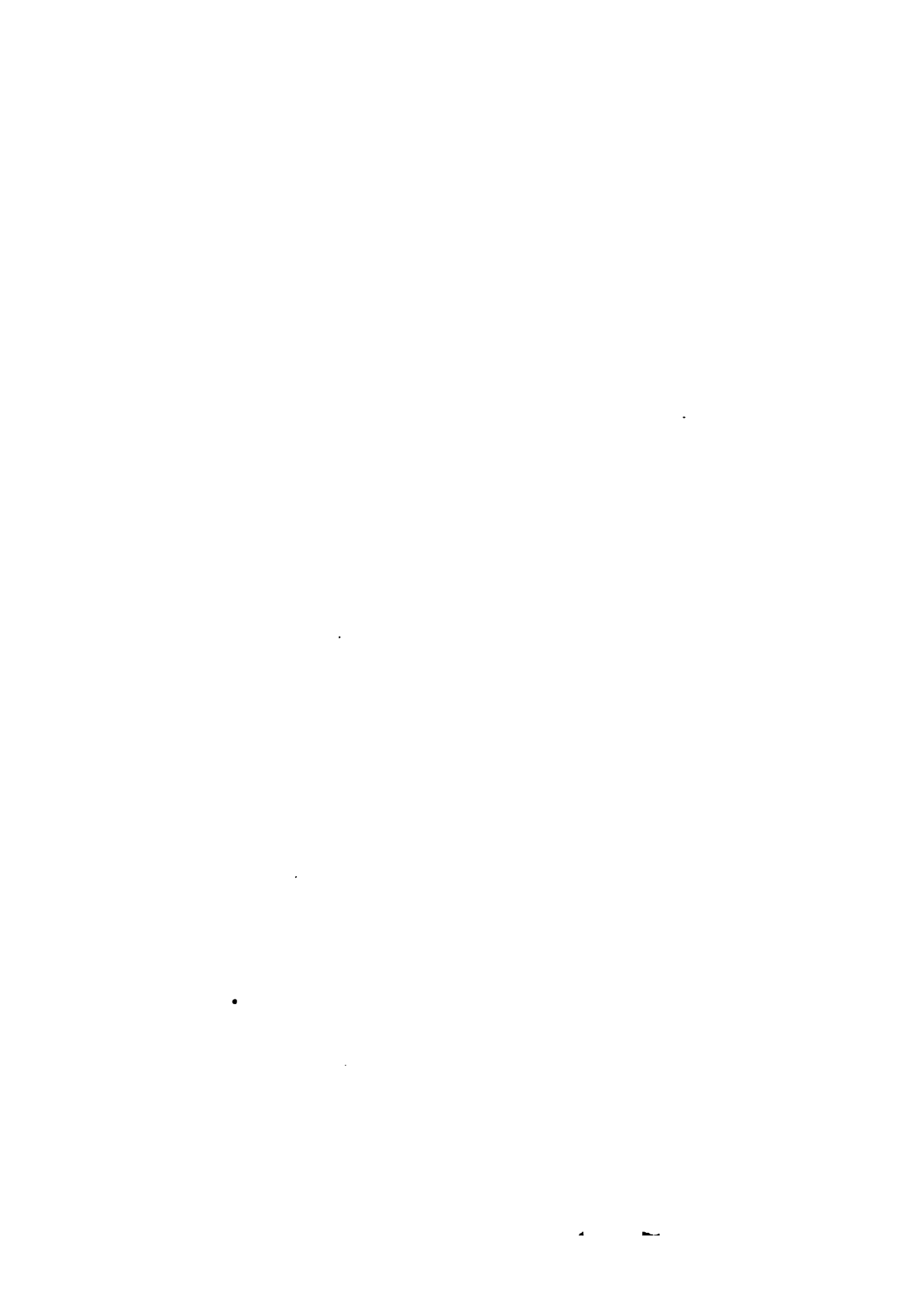














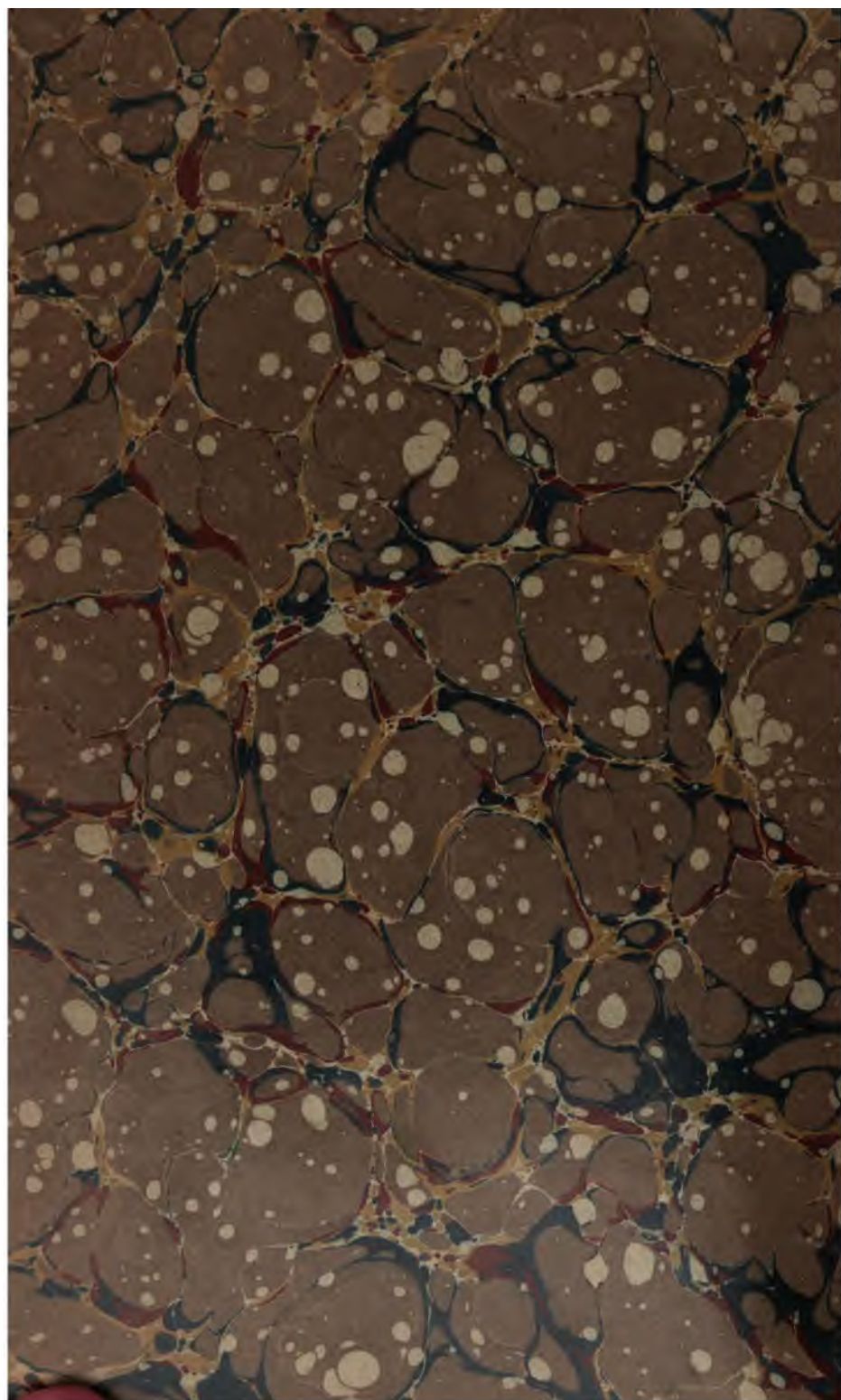
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